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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CITY OF CHARLESTOWN. 1858-67

DECEMBER, 1858.



CHARLESTOWN:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM W. WHEILDON.

1859.

CHURCH AND STATE

THE HISTORY OF THE

RELATIONS OF THE CHURCH TO THE STATE



BY

JOHN

WATSON

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY
JOHN WATSON, 17 NASSAU ST. N.Y.

SCHOOL REPORT.

IN conformity to custom, and to comply with the requirements of law, the School Committee have prepared and submit the following

ANNUAL REPORT.

At the commencement of the financial year, at the request of the Committee on Finance of the City Council, the Board made an estimate, from the best information which they possessed, of the amount of money which would be requisite for the support of schools for the year. The City Council were desirous that the general appropriation bill for city expenses, should be as small as possible, and the Board was urged to keep its wants as low as would be consistent with the proper management of the schools. To conform to this request, and what seemed to be the general wish, viz. to prevent extravagance or lavishness in the city expenses, the Board instructed its Finance Committee to make a very careful estimate, and if possible prepare such a statement as would be likely to cover all expenses.—

This statement was prepared, and after discussion, approved by the Board and presented to the City Council, who granted the aggregate of the sums asked for, to wit : 40,755 dollars. And it was our earnest hope and belief that we should get through the year without exceeding this amount. But, after the spring examinations, the number of scholars who presented themselves at the Intermediate School, the Grammar Schools, and the High School, was so unexpectedly large, that it became necessary to ask the committee on Public Property for additional accommodations, and to employ several new teachers. This was altogether an extra expense, but it could not be avoided ; and now, at the close of the year, we can calculate exactly how much it has increased the amount required for teacher's salaries over the estimate made for that purpose at the commencement of the year. We present the following statement, which will show the condition of the appropriation at the present time, the amount of the next pay-roll, and why it overruns the balance of the appropriation.

The amount remaining to the credit of the
appropriation " For Teachers' Salaries "

at this time, is

\$7,471.89

Amount of the next pay-roll will be

8,930.94

Deficiency,

\$1,459.05

for which provision will have to be made by the City Council. This deficiency has occurred, not from any increase of the salaries over the last year—none having been made—but for the pay of extra teachers, which the unexpected increase in the number of scholars re-

ferred to, has made it absolutely necessary to employ. These teachers have been—

(One extra female assistant in Warren School,					300	
One	“	“	“	B. H.	“	291.65
Two	“	“	“	Winthrop	“	565.70
One	“	“	“	Interm'ate	“	106.75
One	“	“	“	High	“	224.24

\$1,488.34

From which deduct the difference between
the salaries of teachers resigned during
the year and those newly appointed, viz. 29.29

and it leaves this amount, \$1,459.05

the same as the difference between the pay-roll and the balance of the appropriation. The other items of expense the Board hope will be met by the amount of the appropriation. Some of them are overrun, such as books furnished poor children, but to others there is a balance remaining, and altogether we hope to make the two ends meet. To do this, however, it will be necessary for the City Council to transfer from the School appropriation to some other, an amount paid for work done on the Prescott School-House, before the commencement of the present financial year—an amount which never should have been charged to the appropriation “For Support of Schools,” based as that was upon a statement, embracing each item of the expenses which the School Committee thought it proper for them to provide for; a statement cut down to the very lowest figure to meet the wishes of the Committee of Finance of the City Council. The Board have only to add, to

what they have thought proper to say in relation to the expenses of the schools, that they have endeavored, all through the year, to get along with as little expense as possible ; and looking the ground all over, they see no reason to be dissatisfied with the expenses which they have authorised. They think they are consistent with the idea with which they started, to be economical rather than lavish, and to manage the schools as they would manage their own affairs.

The attention of the Committee on Public Property has been called several times to the importance of an alteration in the *doors* of several of the large school-houses : so that they shall swing out instead of in, as they do now. And we again give it as our opinion, that this change is essential to the safety of the children and teachers who occupy these buildings ; indeed, with the instances of injury and loss of life which must be fresh in the minds of the gentlemen composing that committee, we are wholly unable to account for their neglect to attend to this matter, and can hardly see how they could escape the most unpleasant reflections, if any serious injury should happen to any one on account of this defect in the doors of our school-houses.

The subject of *Truancy* is one to which the Committee would call special attention. There are always to be found, in every school district, idle, mischievous, truant children, whose bad example is exceedingly pernicious. Boys, and girls too, who are under no control of their parents, and whose influence for evil can only be checked by a strict enforcement of the Truant Law. Interference in such cases, by the legal authorities, is demanded both by a true regard for the welfare of such

unfortunate, neglected children, and for the protection of those better cared for, but who are exposed to their harmful influence. The good order of society and the welfare of the schools depend, in a measure, upon the *certainty* with which the ordinance in relation to truancy is executed. Heretofore, the Committee are sorry to say, for reasons which they do not presume to judge of, notwithstanding the annual appointment of a Justice and other officers specially to enforce the Truant Law, but little interest seems to have been given to the subject; complaints have only occasionally received attention, and the evils of truancy have not been checked. We are glad, however, to know, that His Honor the Mayor, has recently given such directions in regard to the matter as will be likely to render more effective the city ordinance referred to, and lessen the evil which it was intended to reach. We appeal to all connected in any way with its execution, to assist in giving the schools the full advantage of a properly enforced Truant Law.

The number of schools, teachers and scholars, at the close of the term ending October 31, was as follows :

28 Primaries, with	28 teachers,	2028 scholars.
1 Intermediate,	1 “	80 “
7 Grammar,	43 “	1991 “
1 High,	6 “	179 “
—	—	—
37 schools,	79 teachers,	4279 scholars.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Teachers have resigned in Nos. 17 and 18, since the last report, and others have been appointed in their places, and we have again to notice the fact that the rooms occupied by Schools Nos. 1, 5, 19, 27 and 29, are unfit for the purpose for which they are used.

From the reports of the Sub-Committees, it would appear that most of the Primary Schools are under the care of industrious and capable teachers. That among them are those who realize that their work is of a very important character, and that its effects will be felt through the whole lives of the children under their care ; who feel that they are in a measure responsible for the health and the manners, as well as the intellectual development of their pupils ; who are influenced duly by differences in the temperament and tendencies of the children, and by the home influence which they know to be exerted upon them ; aiming all the time to counteract bad influences and to take advantage of good, and so to bring out and establish, as far as possible, the real qualities of mind and heart of which each child is possessed : such teachers as understand childhood and love children, and who can impart patience, and application and knowledge, because they have a stock of such qualities to draw from. To enable them to employ competent and efficient persons, the School Committee heretofore have advocated and recommended an increase in the salaries of the Primary School Teachers ; and now that they are fixed at a liberal point, there

can be no justification for retaining the services of those who cannot come up to a standard which shall insure good care, good example and good instruction, for all the children who attend the Primary Schools. And with good Primary School teachers, and the co-operation of parents in sending their children regularly to school, in encouraging them in habits of cleanliness and order and activity, we can look into the future with hope, and be more than ever satisfied that we shall be fully repaid for the care and expense we bestow upon our children.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

TEACHER,
MISS ANN NOWELL.

ASSISTANT,
ELIZABETH R. BROWER.

SUB-COMMITTEE,
JOHN SANBORN,
WILLIAM FOSDICK,
JAMES G. FOSTER.

This school is answering the purpose for which it was established, and since the appointment of the present principal teacher, the semi-annual reports from the Sub-Committees have always borne testimony to her skill and faithfulness. The rapid progress made by many of the pupils whose education before entering the school had been entirely neglected, has been in many cases surprising; an instance is given in the May report, of an Italian lad who was qualified and entered the Grammar School, who six months before could not speak a word of English. In their December report, the Committee say, "we have examined the school and found

twenty-four pupils prepared to enter the Grammar Schools to which they have been promoted. We found also that all the classes were making satisfactory progress and that the discipline continues to be excellent." They call attention to the crowded state of the school, and represent the rooms as insufficiently ventilated, and as a larger number have come in since the examination than have left, they urge immediate action on the part of the Board to establish another Intermediate School in another part of the city.

WARREN SCHOOL.

GEORGE SWAN, Principal.

WILLIAM BAXTER, Sub-Master.

ASSISTANTS,

MARY A. OSGOOD,
MARIA BROWN,
MARY J. FULLER,

MARGARET VEAZIE,
REBECCA M. PERKINS,
JULIA A. WORCESTER.

Sub-Committee—GEORGE B. NEAL,
CALVIN C. SAMPSON,
WILLIAM N. LANE,
H. K. FROTHINGHAM.

In presenting their semi-annual report in May, the Sub-Committee express themselves as "happy in being able to say of the school, that it is in a highly satisfactory condition, both as it regards the faithfulness and efficiency of the teachers and the orderly and studious habits of the pupils." They add: "The two schools formerly known as Warren No. 1 and 2, after the transfer of Mr. Joseph T. Swan to the Prescott School, were organized as one school, with a principal teacher, a sub-master and six assistants to manage it. At the same time changes were made in the School Districts,

the effect of which was felt in this as well as the other schools. The general order and discipline were seriously disturbed and progress retarded for a time, but we can report now, that the evils necessarily attendant upon such radical changes have not been so great as we anticipated they would be. By the active and constant exertions of the teachers, in a very short time order was restored, and everything systematically arranged, so that now the school is making satisfactory progress. The substitution of modern desks and chairs, for the old-fashioned pine seats and forms, has made a very great improvement in the appearance of the rooms and added much to the comfort of the scholars. The examination of the school was conducted by the Committee, and the result was highly gratifying. A good deal of time was occupied with the divisions under the charge of the new sub-master, who is every way worthy of the trust reposed in him." In December they say : " Having seen the practical working of the new system—the consolidation of two schools into one—for nearly a year, we are prepared to report favorably concerning it, and to give a decided opinion that the school has been improved by the change." The November examination, was conducted as usual by the Committee, and they say of it : " As the result of this examination we are happy to report that the pupils are making rapid and sure progress. They are taught not alone to repeat the words of their lessons, but to understand and apply the meaning in such a manner that whatever knowledge they may acquire in school may be of practical use to them in after life."

BUNKER HILL SCHOOL.

WILLIAM H. SANDERS, Principal.

L. A. DARLING, Sub-Master.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNIE M. LUND,
MARTHA A. BIGELOW,
CAROLINE M. PHIPPS,PHOEBE A. KNIGHTS,
CAROLINE E. BIGELOW,
MARY S. THOMAS.*Sub-Committee*—CHARLES D. LINCOLN,
WILLIAM FOSDICK,
SAMUEL T. TAPLEY,
THOMAS J. ELIOTT.

The Sub-Committee report concerning this school as follows: "We have examined it as thoroughly and faithfully as our business engagements would admit.—The several classes were heard in each of the studies pursued by them, the higher divisions by the whole Committee together, and the lower divisions by some one of them acting alone. The school severally was found to be in as good condition as could be expected after the changes of districts and classes which had so recently taken place. The pupils in this school seem to be well instructed, to be taught ideas and not words merely. All the teachers are indefatigable in their endeavors to make the children understand what they are studying, and to avoid instructing mechanically and by rote. There was a lack of proficiency in reading and spelling on the part of some of the advanced classes, which we were sorry to observe. This was accounted for by the fact that an undue proportion of labor and time had been bestowed upon other branches as being more important; and it was to be particularly regretted, as unusually fine classes in Reading are graduated from some of the Primary Schools in the Bunker Hill District. The exercises in Arithmetic, Geography and

Grammar, were highly gratifying and satisfactory ; and in History as much so as could be expected from the dry and uninteresting text-book used in the school.—The new Sub-Master has secured the respect and affection of his pupils, and his earnest efforts, thorough education, and love of his work, give sure promise of success.” The Committee call attention again to the inconvenient and old-fashioned furniture with which this school is provided, and make an earnest appeal for an appropriation, by the City Council, for the purchase of modern desks and chairs, such as are used in all the other Grammar Schools.

WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
B. F. S. GRIFFIN, Principal.	SAMUEL S. WILLSON, Principal.
ASSISTANTS.	ASSISTANTS.
SOPHIA W. PAGE, H. AUGUSTA ADAMS, SARAH A. ODELL.	NANCY W. CASWELL, ELLEN A. RICHARDSON, ELIZABETH B. M. KNOX, ABBY M. CLARK.
<i>Sub-Committee</i> —G. WASHINGTON WARREN, JOHN SANBORN, JAMES G. FOSTER.	

From the May report we extract the following :
 “Every division of the school has been examined in all its studies by one of the Committee. In comparing the results of our labors we find that both divisions of the school have made satisfactory progress. They appear to be under good discipline ; the teachers are faithful and devoted to the interests of their charge ; and the different divisions evinced a marked improvement. The exhibitions in both schools were of a high

order, and attracted great attention and interest. The exercises in Reading and Declamation were exceedingly well performed. The Singing was pronounced by competent judges to be very good ; and we were happy to find that this exercise had not been neglected, as we consider it an important one. An unusually large number of scholars were promoted to the High School, the whole of the first division in School No. 1, having completed the course of studies required for admission to that school, and nearly all of them were admitted." In December the Committee report: "The higher classes in each of these schools were examined in Reading, Orthography, Grammar, History, Arithmetic and Geography. Questions were for the most part put to scholars by the Committee ; in all cases the parts of the text-books were selected by them. The answers were generally given with great promptness and correctness. Both schools have exhibited proofs of proficiency during the past term, and punctuality, order and good discipline have been maintained in them."

HARVARD SCHOOLS.

No. 1	No. 2.
C. SOULE CARTEE, Principal.	JOSEPH B. MORSE, Principal.
ASSISTANTS.	ASSISTANTS.
ANN E. WESTON,	ELIZABETH SWORDS,
MARTHA BLOOD,	CAROLINE S. CROZIER,
SARAH E. ARCHER.	JOSEPHINE MISKELLY.
<i>Sub-Committee</i> —WILLIAM W. WHEILDON,	
EDWIN F. ADAMS,	
JAMES ADAMS.	

The Sub-Committee report in May, as follows: "We have attended and held the customary examination of the several divisions of School No. 1, and find them all

in a good condition of progress. The school was much disturbed by the operation of re-districting the city, and so numerous were the changes that the course of studies was considerably impeded." In December they say : "We were a good deal pleased with this school, and the first division, under the immediate charge of the principal, appeared uncommonly well. The examination before the whole Committee was quite satisfactory. We may not only reasonably commend the Reading and the Spelling, but all the studies generally ; and we are satisfied that the oral instruction of the teacher, outside the books of study, tends to create the habit of thoughtfulness in the scholars, which greatly enhances the benefit of their studies. The other divisions of the school were found to be in good condition, and the teachers qualified and faithful." Of School No. 2, they remark, in May, as follows : "The condition of the school is good, in its several divisions, although the course of studies has been greatly disturbed by changes in the districts. The Principal and all his assistants are regarded by us as faithful and devoted to their duties." In December they say : "The first division was examined by the whole Committee, and considering the interruption of the school last year, and the material to be developed, considerable progress has been made in the improvement of the scholars. The Principal appears to be faithful and indefatigable, and will no doubt advance his scholars very rapidly before the next examination. The advantages which the several divisions of this school and that of Harvard No. 1, enjoy, in having separate rooms for their study and recitations, ought to be made to appear in the advance-

ment of the scholars. The lower divisions of this school were examined by the Committee, and found to be in a favorable condition, with faithful teachers.

PRESCOTT SCHOOL.

JOSEPH T. SWAN, Principal.

GUILFORD D. BIGELOW, Sub-Master.

ASSISTANTS.

SARAH M. CHANDLER,
MARY JANE BROWN,
H. A. T. DADLEY,
HANNAH M. SAWYER,

ABBY L. SWAN,
JOSEPHINE M. FLINT,
FRANCES M. CLARK,
ELLEN M. WHEELER.

Sub-Committee—TIMOTHY T. SAWYER,
JAMES B. MILES,
ABRAM E. CUTTER,
GEORGE E. ELLIS.

The spring examination of this school took place between the 5th and 19th of April, some member of the Committee being present some part of each day during that time. Its condition was very satisfactory, taking into consideration the fact that it had recently been organized and was an experiment upon a new system, the working of which could hardly be determined in so short a time as had elapsed since the occupation of the building. The *building*, the Committee have no doubt, is perfectly adapted to the system, and everything about it seems to be answering the expectations of those who planned and constructed it; so that if any failure occurs, it will be chargeable to defects in the new system, or to lack of capacity and tact on the part of the teachers, and not to the want of adaptation or the condition of the school-house. The Committee are happy in this report to say that everything seemed to be going on in a systematic way. The order was excel-

lent, and such as would insure proper care of the building and appurtenances ; in this respect, if there is any danger, it will be that too much attention will be given to it. Order, however, is the first law, and that being fully established, the time of the principal teacher will no doubt be appropriated in forwarding all the interests of the school, his success heretofore being a guarantee for the future, and of his attention to the development of the intellect of his pupils, as well as to the formation of habits of order and regularity. The new Sub-Master is evidently well qualified for his situation, and the appearance of his division was such as to indicate a true interest in his work and full capacity for its performance. Concerning the female assistants, the committee remark as follows : “Several of them had been successful teachers in other schools in this city, before the opening of this, and they continue to give satisfaction—their pupils being well governed and instructed.—The *new* teachers are all attentive to their duties, and are striving hard to adapt themselves to the labor which they have undertaken ; but the school is hardly yet started, and it is too early, in the opinion of the committee, to form a proper judgment of what their success will be. The school having been so recently organized, and the arrangement of the scholars being so different from the other schools, the committee made it their chief object in this examination to ascertain the condition of each of the divisions, so that they could understand by *subsequent* examinations what progress was being made by the scholars, and form a correct judgment of the merits of each teacher : and except in a *general* remark that most of the divisions appeared

well, they have nothing to say concerning the studies of the school, presuming that in this first report, the Board can expect only to hear, that the Prescott School is well started and under good discipline. The *exhibition* of the school took place on the 20th of April, and was attended by a large number of the parents and other persons. Each division had its exhibition in its own room, and afterwards the upper divisions were exhibited in the hall. The exercises were all interesting, and the occasion was a pleasing one to all present.”—From the December report we extract the following : “The school has improved a good deal since the examination in the spring. In several of the rooms a decided change has taken place, the correct deportment and intelligence of the pupils affording ample evidence of capability and industry on the part of the teachers. All the divisions appeared very well. The committee are of opinion that there is need of a better understanding in regard to the duties of some of the teachers in the higher classes ; and it has needed the experience of the past year to determine several matters connected with the duties of the Principal—such as, how far he is to be responsible for the *order* in all the rooms—what recitations he shall hear—and what assistance he shall receive from the Sub-Master. The arrangement of the school is so different from any of the other schools in the city, and the district being an entirely new one, made up of parts of others, and of scholars who had been under very different influences, that labor and judgment, as well as time, have been requisite to get things into good working order ; and if the teachers have manifested a good deal of anxiety and perplex-

ity the while, it has not been without cause. Time, however, must be the regulator of such difficulties, and with the duties of the teachers more clearly defined (the first thing which should claim the attention of a new committee,) the school will no doubt be greatly improved, and the advantages of the arrangement of separate rooms for each division, be made apparent and certain."

HIGH SCHOOL.

Principal, A. M. GAY.

Sub-Master, CHARLES E. STETSON.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS.

Mrs. P. G. BATES, FRANCES M. READ,
SARAH A. GRIFFIN, MARY CURTIS.

SUB-COMMITTEE.

GEORGE E. ELLIS,
WILLIAM W. WHEILDON.
G. WASHINGTON WARREN,
TIMOTHY T. SAWYER

The Sub Committee on this School, report in May, "That they attended to their prescribed duty in its examination during the week commencing Monday, April 5. The number of pupils examined in one or more of the various branches of study was one hundred and fifty, including the graduates of this year. The result was on the whole quite satisfactory. A few of the scholars—who showed themselves most apt for receiving and making the best improvement of the eminent advantages they enjoy—gave proof of a very remarkable proficiency in the most difficult branches of their education. The majority exhibited fidelity and success, and the exceptions were quite rare to the per-

fect satisfaction enjoyed by the Committee in examining all the scholars.

“The tokens of an increasing attachment to the school, and of a fuller appreciation of their advantages on the part of the pupils were very gratifying as they were exhibited in connection with this formal visit of the Committee. There is now a spirit of fellowship or privilege felt by the graduates of this institution, and passing from them to those who are members of it from year to year, which is found to furnish an honorable impulse in its favor among our citizens and their children.

“The only suggestion which the Committee have to make in view of any defect, or any existing arrangement in the conduct of the school, has reference to an improved classification of the branches of study to adapt them to the capacities of the scholars, and to the objects which they have in view after completing their course here. The Committee entertain some doubts about the expediency of so far modifying the required course of study for all the scholars as to allow a large range of elective branches. Farther experience may suggest a change in this respect, for which we are not now prepared.”

In December, they report “that they attended to the examination of the school during the week beginning November 15. The duty of the Committee is an arduous one on account of the number of the classes and the variety of the studies pursued. With the general appearance of the school they were highly gratified.—Abundant evidence was afforded of the devotion of the teachers to their several duties and of their joint efforts

in mutually helping each other to make the institution effective for the purposes for which it was established by the city.

“A cause of great embarrassment is found by the teachers in the frequent expression of a desire on the part of the parents of some of the pupils, that the regular course of studies should be modified in reference to the abilities or the preferences of single scholars. This is in most cases impossible. The number of the classes is now a severe exaction on the instructors, and any addition to it would make it impossible for them to carry on their duties in the school.

“Two boys from the school entered College at the last Commencement, and there is quite a promising class of pupils now in preparation to be offered for admission next year.

“It is believed that the measures recently instituted by the School Committee to raise the standard in the Grammar Schools for admission to the High School will have a very beneficial influence upon the latter. Heretofore the first year of study for each new class has necessarily required a mingling of the more appropriate branches of the High School course, with a review or a completion of the simpler and elementary branches of a Grammar School course, and even then some scholars have begun the study of Latin and Algebra who would have spent their time much more profitably in the study of English and Arithmetic.

“The Committee have heard fewer complaints during the last term than ever before from pupils and their parents, about the alleged excessive length and number of their set tasks. From personal inquiry in several

cases, the Committee have assured themselves that the teachers do not exact too much of such pupils as have a taste and aptitude for High School studies. We have also noticed that the discipline and the standard of the school are such as to excite very strongly the ambition of the scholars, and consequently to demand of the less facile ones considerable effort to sustain a good rank on the scale. It is here that a public High School has an eminent advantage over a private school in which the same branches of study are pursued.

The Committee were compelled at this Examination to announce to the scholars the resignation of their highly esteemed and most faithful teacher, Mrs. BATES. It is with much regret on our part that we lose for the future the services of that excellent lady. For eight years she has discharged her arduous duties to the fullest acceptance of the teachers associated with her, and of the Committee, and of the scholars and their parents. Her place is now filled by Miss Katharine Whitney, whose services we hope to secure permanently."

Year	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

The School Committee have presented a memorial to the City Council asking for the passage of an ordinance requiring the appointment of a Superintendent of the Public Schools, and giving authority to establish a salary for said office. It was not without full deliberation in the Board, proceeding upon a previous agitation of the subject for several years, and clearly founded on their own experience, that the members unanimously coincided as to the expediency of the proposed measure. The members of the Board, like their fellow citizens around them engaged in the active business of life, can give but a limited portion of their time to the oversight of the schools. Such of their duties as can be discharged by a regular attendance on their semi-monthly meetings and by listening to the calls made at their doors in connection with the daily interests of the schools and the applications of candidates as teachers, require as much time as most of them have free for such uses. It is at the semi-annual examinations of the schools provided for in the rules of the Board, that the Committee feel that the service required of them demands more of time and attention than they are able to give. These examinations which ought to be patient, thorough, and deliberate, in order to fulfil their purpose, are almost always performed in a perfunctory way, hurried, superficial, and imperfect. Nor can the

sub-committees judge how well the appearance of a school at its examination represents its actual condition. The knowledge of the real state of a school, of the fidelity and ability of its teachers, and of the proficiency of its pupils can be attained only by the constant supervision of a competent person, visiting it at all hours unexpectedly, and watching its progress from one of his visits to another. And only when all the schools are thus subjected to the oversight of a single officer can we know the real working of our school system, or, in fact, have anything like a school system. The state of each one of the schools as regards discipline and proficiency, ought to be compared with that of all its kindred institutions in this and in other cities. For these purposes we need a School Superintendent. The schools are suffering and the interests of the city in them are suffering too, for the want of one. The Committee believe that the expense to the city treasury of such an officer would be more than balanced by the savings he would effect by looking carefully after the buildings and the incidental outlays for fuel, books, &c.

In concluding their Report, the Committee might be expected to express their judgment upon the present position and relative success of our school system.— They could do this either in general terms or by entering into details. But more space than we feel at liberty to occupy would be necessary for an intelligible and adequate statement of the views in which all of us might coincide upon this subject. The simple truth is that the system of public school education in this Common-

wealth must always be regarded as an extended experiment, improvements in which will be suggested from year to year by a careful comparison of the experience of a vast number of joint laborers in the work, and the great aim of which will be pursued with a higher standard always in view. From the great outlay of time, labor and wisdom spent upon this cause we certainly ought to expect some appreciable results. When we consider that from the hundreds of committee rooms in villages, towns and cities up through teachers' associations and educational conventions, to the State Board and the debates of the Legislature, we are continually discussing the best means for advancing this high cause, we may see reason to decide that one of the most encouraging signs for the future is really to be found in a good tempered and not despondent dissatisfaction with the present state of things.

By order of the Committee.

TIMOTHY T. SAWYER, President.

Charlestown, December, 1858.

GEO. B. NEAL, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH
TRUSTEES OF CHARLESTOWN FREE SCHOOLS.

Dr.

1858.	Jan. 1,	To Balance brought forward,	366.65
	"	Interest of City Treasurer on \$5000 note, . .	150.00
	May 13,	A. E. Cutter, Cash for Diplomas, High School,	16.00
	Aug. 13,	Interest of City Treasurer on \$5000 note, . .	150.00
	Dec. 6,	Interest of City Treasurer on \$600 note, . .	36.00
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			\$718.65
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1858.	Jan. 2.	By paid Wm. W. Wheildon, bill for sundries, . .	14.05
	"	M. E. Studley, refunded for Diploma, . .	1.00
		Geo. E. Ellis, "	1.00
	April 1,	L. A. Elliott, No. 1, American Cyclopædia, . .	3.50
	May 1,	" No. 2, " "	3.50
	"	Hallett & Cumston, rent of Piano,	6.50
	May 13,	Smith, Knight & Tappan, Diplomas,	7.50
	Sept. 20,	L. A. Elliott, No. 3, American Cyclopædia, . .	3.50
	Dec. 14,	" No. 4, " "	3.50
	20,	Wm. W. Wheildon, printing High School	
		Programmes, &c.,	16.00
	29,	Balance on hand,	658.60
			<hr/>
			\$718.65
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GEORGE B. NEAL, Treasurer.

Charlestown, Dec. 29, 1858.



